sons/parties and that they never import dry fruits in their individual capacity; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to allow import of dry fruits under 'Open General Licence' Scheme so as to prevent black marketing in its import? . . . . . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The number and value of import licences issued for import of dry fruits excluding cashew nuts and dates are given below:— . . .

(in Rs. lakhs)

| | No. | Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1982-83 . . . | 6412 | 3647.34 |
| 1983-84 . . . | 6804 | 2282.63 |
| 1984-85 (up to June '85) | 2071 | 893.97 |

Details of individual licences are published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Import Licences, Export licences and Industrial licences" copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Some cases of sale of such licences have come to the notice of the Government Action is taken under import of dry fruits under O.G.L. lation.

(c) There is no proposal to allow import of dry fruits under O.G.L.

### मेंढकों की टांगों का निर्यात

2292. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि डा० जी० एम० ओझा के अनुसार, भारत प्रति वर्ष मेंढक की 3000 टन टांगों का निर्यात कर रहा है और 9000 टन मेंढक प्रति वर्ष मारे जाते हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि ये 9000 टन मेंढक मनुष्यों के स्वास्थ्य और फसलों को हानि पहुंचाने वाले 10 लाख टन कीड़ों को खा सकते हैं ; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि बहुत बड़ी संख्या में मेंढकों के मारे जाने से ऐसे कीड़ों की संख्या में भारी वृद्धि हो रही है जो कि फसलों को खराब कर देते हैं तथा लोगों के स्वास्थ्य के लिये खतरा है और यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

**वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान) :** (क) से (ग) डा० जी०एम० ओझा द्वारा व्यक्त किये, बताये गये ऐसे मत के बारे में कोई प्रामाणिक रिपोर्ट नहीं है । इस आशय का कोई ठोस प्रमाण नहीं है कि मेंढक की टांगों के निर्यात (जोकि 1984–85 के दौरान 2,728 मे० टन का था) के परिणामस्वरूप कीटों की संख्या में बड़े पैमाने पर वृद्धि होती है और इससे लोगों के स्वास्थ्य को खतरा है तथापि परिवेश संरक्षण के लिये मेंढकों को पकड़ने और मेंढक की टांगों के निर्यातों पर सरकार द्वारा अनेक प्रतिबंध लगाये गये हैं जिनमें ये शामिल हैं:— . . .

(1) 15 अप्रैल से 15 अगस्त तक प्रजनन सीजन के दौरान मेंढक पकड़ने और मेंढक की टांगों के संसाधन पर रोक है ।

(2) निर्यात अधिकतम सीमा का निर्धारण ।

(3) केवल उन्हीं संसाधनों को मेंढक की टांगों का संसाधन तथा निर्यात करने की अनुमति दी जाती है जिनके पास मेंढकों के दयामय हनन की सुविधा है ।

(4) निर्यात कतिपय किस्मों तक ही सीमित हैं ।

### Withdrawals from Employees' Provident Fund for house construction

2293. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the ceiling of withdrawals entitlement from Employees' Provident Fund for the construction of houses;

(b) if so, whether detailed proposals have been drawn for this purpose; and

(c) what are those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) The ceiling of withdrawal from the Employees' Provident Fund for construction of House was raised from 24 months to 36 months basic wages and dearness allowance w.e.f. 13-7-1985. The wage limit for membership of fund has also been raised from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2500 per month w.e.f. 1-9-1985. All those drawing wages up to Rs. 2500 per month are therefore, now entitled to withdrawal up to 36 months basic wages and dearness allowance, for house building purpose.

**Revision of minimum wages**

2294. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

What is Government's policy in regard to revision of minimum wages after the initial fixation of the wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) whether it is a fact that though hospitals are covered by the Minimum Wages Act, wages of hospital employees, have not been revised for a long time and in some cases for more than a decade;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some States like Maharashtra, employees working in Government hospitals are paid Rs. 4.04 per day even now; and

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued to the various State Governments regarding the revision of minimum wages; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 lays down that the "appropriate Government" shall review at such intervals as it may think fit, such intervals not exceeding 5 years, the minimum rates of wages and revise them if necessary. However, the 31st Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 recommended that the minimum wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 Points in the Consumer Price Index Number, whichever is earlier. Some of the State Governments have linked wages with the Consumer Price Index Number to provide for periodic increase in minimum wages with the rise in the Index Number.

(b) The employment in hospitals was not in the original schedule under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 However, by virtue of the powers under Section 27 of the aforesaid Act, some of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations (e.g. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi) have added the employment in private hospitals/ nursing homes, etc. to the Schedule under the Act and fixed minimum wages for this employment. A statement giving the dates of fixation/revision of minimum wages by the aforesaid State Governments and Delhi Administration is attached. (*See* below).

(c) According to the available information, the Government of Maharashtra revised the minimum wages in the employment in hospitals on January 29, 1985, the basic rate of minimum wages for the unskilled category being Rs. 400, Rs. 450 and Rs. 500 p.m. according to zones. In addition, there is an element of special allowance which is revised every six months. As regards the daily rates of wages in Government hospitals the required information is awaited from the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) The State Governments/Union Territories Administrations have been requested from time to time to follow the recommendation of the 31st Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference referred to in reply to part (a) of the question.